



# Think Loughton



N° 27 Winter 2004

News from Loughton Town Council

## Centre plan wins public approval



**A PUBLIC consultation day on the plans for the new Community & Youth Centre was held at Debden Library in October, and Loughton Town Council was very pleased by the response to this event.**

Around 100 local residents and councillors took the opportunity to view the plans

and drawings for the project, which is being developed in partnership with Essex County Council.

Interestingly, the majority of the visitors had lived in the area for more than five years, with a good percentage coming from the local Alderton ward.

The proposals for the new building, to replace the former and now derelict United

Reformed Church in Borders Lane, were welcomed. A party of Debden Park High school children were most enthusiastic in their support.

Those who attended the exhibition were invited to identify the activities and facilities they would like to see at the new centre.

The highest-ranked items were pensioners' clubs and a

teenage drop-in centre. Gardening clubs and rock and pop concerts were the least popular.

In the more detailed written comments received, local residents raised genuine concerns that events at the centre could potentially cause noise problems and parking congestion in the area.

The Town Council has been working with the architects to address these issues in order to minimise the impact of the building on its neighbours.

Loughton Town Council Community Committee has now agreed to submit a planning application and begin the tendering process to appoint a contractor.

Construction of the centre is due for completion in 2006. The full consultation results can be seen in the Town Council office.

# CONTACT NUMBERS

## COUNCIL SERVICES

Loughton Town Council	020 8508 4200
Epping Forest District Council	01992 564000
Epping Sports Centre	01992 564564
Waltham Abbey Sports Centre	01992 716194
Waste Management Hotline	01992 564297
Essex County Council	01245 492211
Registrar of Births & Deaths	01992 572788
Registrar of Marriages	01992 572789
Education Office	01245 436231
Loughton Library	020 8502 0181
Debden Library	020 8508 5869
Social Services	020 8508 9311

## POLICE & FIRE (dial 999 for emergencies)

Loughton Police Station (non-urgent)	020 8502 3881
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## HEALTH & HOSPITALS

British Red Cross	020 8508 2162
Forest Medical Centre	020 8508 4580
Holly House (Private)	020 8505 3311
King George	020 8983 8000
NHS Direct	0845 4647
Princess Alexandra	01279 444455
Rectory Lane Health Centre (Loughton Hall Clinic)	020 8272 4600
Roding (Private)	020 8551 1100
St Margaret's & Primary Care Trust	01992 561666
Silverthorn Centre, Chingford	020 8529 3706
Whipps Cross	020 8539 5522

## SPORT

David Lloyd Centre	020 8559 8466
Essex School of Swimming	020 8505 9436
Loughton Cricket Club	020 8502 2064
Loughton Rugby Club	020 8504 0065
Loughton Bowling Club	020 8508 3546
Loughton Leisure Centre	01992 564574

Roding Valley Cricket Club	020 8506 1001
Roding Valley Tennis Centre	020 8505 4008
South Loughton Cricket Club	020 8530 2200
Loughton Athletic Club	020 8508 9843

## ADVICE, HELP & INFORMATION

Citizens Advice Bureau	020 8502 0031
Epping Forest College	020 8508 8311
Family Care Counselling Service	020 8502 2714
Loughton Information Centre	01992 564808
Loughton Job Centre	020 8258 4740
Trading Standards Office	01245 341800
Social Security, Department of (Wentworth House)	020 8532 4200
Samaritans	020 8553 9900
SSAFA, Forces Help	020 8508 8960

## TRAVEL & TOURISM

Arriva Herts & Essex	01279 426349
Arriva London North East	020 8595 3088
Essex Traveline	08457 000 333
Gatwick Airport	01293 535353
Heathrow Airport	020 8759 4321
London Regional Transport	020 7222 1234
Luton Airport	01582 405100
National Express (Victoria Coach Station)	0990 808 080
National Railways Enquiry Line	0845 7484950
Stansted Airport	01279 680500
Thamesway	01245 353104
Tourist Information Centre	01992 652295
Public Transport Information – Traveline	0870 608 2 608

Bus timetables are available from Loughton Information Centre, Traps Hill

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

British Gas	08459 555208
London Electricity	0800 096 9000
Thames Water	08459 200 800

## COMMUNITY

Care & Repair Service	01992 564086
Churches Together in Loughton	020 8508 0811
Voluntary Action Epping Forest	01992 564178
Epping Forest Volunteer Bureau	01992 564256
Royal British Legion	020 8508 5044
Women's Royal Voluntary Society	020 8508 9276

## CINEMAS

Odeon (South Woodford)	0870 505 0007
UCI (Lee Valley)	0870 603 4567
Virgin (Harlow)	0870 505 0007

## LOCAL AMENITY REFUSE POINTS

Chigwell (closed Bank Holidays)	Luxborough Lane
Ongar	Mill Lane
Waltham Abbey	Brooker Road

For enquiries and opening time details, call Epping Forest District Council.

To advertise in Think Loughton, call 01787 242085

## Editor's notes

OUR annual Light Up a Life ceremony with St Clare Hospice around the tree on Kings Green will have taken place by the time you read this.

It is always a very special and moving occasion, when people take time to reflect on their loved ones under the Christmas lights on the tree.

Many local people sponsor a light on the tree by making a donation to St Clare Hospice in memory of someone they have lost, and it is not too late to do this; just ask for a form from the Town Council office or from St Clare Hospice.

The Town Council provides

the lights on the tree and is always delighted to be able to partner the hospice in this event which means such a lot to all the participants.

The prizes for the Christmas card competition will be presented this year by the Town Mayor at the Council meeting on 8 December. Everyone is welcome to come and watch the presentation.

Work on the Community and Youth Centre is proceeding well, as you can read elsewhere in the newsletter. A lot of hard work has gone into thinking about the design and use of the building, and there is much work still to be done on the finer details.

The site has had security fencing erected around it and

we hope this will prevent the anti-social behaviour we have been experiencing since buying the building. We hope to have contractors starting on site in the spring, and will keep you informed of progress.

The saga of the transfer of Willingale Road allotments from Epping Forest District Council rumbles on. Agreement has been reached on the terms of the transfer. The district council has moved some allotment holders to another part of the site, but we hope that the eventual outcome will mean that a significant proportion of the site will be protected as allotments.

It is the time of year when the council committees are considering their spending

plans for the coming financial year. The councillors will be thinking about what facilities they wish to provide in Loughton, what the cost of these will be, the impact on the budgets and the effect on the local council tax payers.

The Town Council always gives much thought to setting its annual precept and weighs up the provision of services against the financial implications very carefully.

If you are planning to come to a meeting, remember that a recent change in the standing orders means they now start a bit later, at 7.45pm.

We wish you a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

**Louise Fuller**  
Town Clerk

# Fountain regains its former glory

**R**ESPONSIBILITY for the drinking fountain in the High Road has finally been passed to the Town Council.

The fountain, on the corner of Station Road, had been on a long-term lease to Epping Forest District Council.

Its apparent age is an illusion as the original building of 1870 was demolished by a bus on a foggy day in 1934, and was rebuilt two years later.

The working part of the fountain has been out of order for many years, and the plinth which housed the pipes was removed some while ago.

The Town Council urged the district to reinstate the fountain



to full working order. Using part of the environmental improvements budget made available for local town and parish councils, the district council reinstated the plinth but did not restore the water.

After negotiations, the lease for the fountain was assigned to the Town Council, which has reconnected the water.

So, cool fresh water is now available to any passing thirsty person.

## Wrong numbers

**P**LEASE note that the contact phone numbers listed in the autumn Think Loughton for the Local Information For Essex and the West Essex Ramblers Association were incorrect.

Anyone wishing to contact the Life team should contact Elaine Woods or Sue Clark on 01245 436559, or by email at [life@essex.gov.uk](mailto:life@essex.gov.uk). Alternatively, visit their website at [www.essexlife.org](http://www.essexlife.org).

Anyone wishing to contact the West Essex Ramblers Association should call 020 8502 1628.

We apologise for the errors.

## Loughton Town Council meetings

Dec 8 Council	Feb 9 Finance & General Policy
13 Planning	14 Planning
	23 Council
2005	28 Planning
Jan 10 Planning	Mar 9 Community
12 Community	14 Planning
26 Environment, Heritage & Leisure	23 Environment, Heritage & Leisure
31 Planning	29 Planning

Meetings are held at 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton, at 7.45pm.

■ Christmas opening times: The Town Council office will be closed from 12 noon on Friday 24 December, and then for Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 December. Normal hours will operate on Wednesday 29 to Friday 31 December and the office will be closed again on Monday 3 January.

## Deadline dates

EDITION	COPY DEADLINE
Spring 2005	24 January
Summer 2005	25 April

The next issue covers March to June.

Call 020 8508 4200 to add diary entries. Post articles to Loughton Town Council, 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton, Essex IG10 2QZ or email [loughton\\_tc@compuserve.com](mailto:loughton_tc@compuserve.com).

Further copies of Think Loughton may be obtained from the Town Council, or from Debden or Loughton libraries. Please note that we will not accept unattributed articles for publication.

## Inside the Spring issue

THE Spring 2005 edition of Think Loughton will focus on services and activities for children and young people.

If you currently provide facilities for this age group, we would be pleased to hear from a wide range of organisations which may include music, dancing, sports clubs as well as guide and scout groups.

Please submit a brief description of the organisation or activity, the location and the date and time.

Full contact details are also required.

# GET TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

## LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton, Essex IG10 2QZ  
Tel: 020 8508 4200 Fax: 020 8508 4400

Town Clerk: Louise R Fuller

Web: <http://www.loughton-tc.gov.uk> Email: [loughton\\_tc@compuserve.com](mailto:loughton_tc@compuserve.com)

### ALDERTON WARD

Cllr Matt L Daniel 07986 079 498  
(EH&L and Planning Committees)  
21 Amesbury Road, Epping, Essex CM16 4HZ

Cllr Caroline P Pond 020 8508 2361  
Forest Villa, 7 Staples Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1HP

Cllr Peter S Sheen 020 8502 2149  
(Chairman, Planning; Community Committee)  
4 Cherston Gardens, Loughton, Essex IG10 3PN

### BROADWAY WARD

Cllr Lorne Daniel 07736 452944  
(Vice-Chairman, F&GP Committee)  
19 Broadstrood, Loughton, Essex IG10 2SB

Cllr Joan Davis 020 8508 3180  
(EH&L Committee)  
4 Barrington Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 2AY

Cllr Rob W Sheen 020 8925 4838  
(Community Committee)  
216 Willingale Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BX

### FAIRMEAD WARD

Cllr Christine E Baggarley 020 8508 8231  
(F&GP Committee)  
21 Hillyfields, Loughton, Essex IG10 2JT

Cllr William T Lattimore 020 8502 1901  
(Community Committee)  
29 Harvey Gardens, Loughton, Essex IG10 2AD

Cllr Eileen C Murphy 020 8502 5664  
(Vice-Chairman, Community; Planning Committee)  
44 Deepdene Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3PP

### FOREST WARD

Cllr Jack Benjamin 020 8508 4765  
(F&GP Committee)  
23 Newnham Close, Loughton, Essex IG10 4JG

Cllr Rose E Brookes 020 8502 5981  
(Community Committee)  
3 Lower Park Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NB

Cllr Suzanne M Harper 020 8508 4770  
(Chairman, Community Committee)  
Sydney House, 23 Algiers Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NG

### RODING WARD

Cllr Ken E Angold-Stephens 020 8281 0674  
(F&GP Committee)  
89 Lower Park Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NE

Cllr Margaret R M A Chalk 020 8508 2226  
(EH&L Committee)  
49 Southview Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3LQ

Cllr Richard J Pennington 020 8508 0807  
(EH&L Committee)  
51 Stonards Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 3EH

Cllr David J Wixley 020 8418 9284  
(Community Committee)  
2 Copper Beech Court, Goldings Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 2QH

### ST JOHN'S WARD

Cllr Roger E Pearce 020 8281 1386  
(Chairman, F&GP; Planning Committee)  
32 Millsmead Way, Loughton, Essex IG10 1LR

Cllr Stephen Pewsey 020 8508 5582  
(EH&L Committee)  
59 Wroths Path, Loughton, Essex IG10 1SH

Cllr Dr Chris C Pond 020 8508 2361  
(Town Mayor; Vice-Chairman, EH&L; F&GP Committee)  
Forest Villa, 7 Staples Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1HP

### ST MARY'S WARD

Cllr Brian W Moore 020 8508 7112  
(Vice-Chairman, Planning Committee)  
6 Forest View Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4DX

Cllr Michael W Wardle 020 8508 2771  
(Deputy Town Mayor; F&GP and Planning Committees)  
61 The Drive, Loughton, Essex IG10 1HG

Cllr Janet L Woods 020 8508 1764  
(Chairman, EH&L; Planning Committee)  
1a Woodland Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1HQ

EH&L= Environment, Heritage & Leisure  
F&GP= Finance & General Policy

## ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

### ST JOHN'S DIVISION

Cllr Colin Finn 020 8508 5319  
16 Church Close, Loughton, Essex IG10 1LQ

### ST MARY'S DIVISION

Cllr David Linnell 020 8508 2932  
20 Eleven Acre Rise, Loughton, Essex IG10 1AN

### BUCKHURST HILL DIVISION

Cllr Ann Haigh 020 8505 5773  
51 Greenhill, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5SQ

## PARLIAMENTARY & EUROPEAN

### MP FOR EPPING FOREST

Eleanor Laing MP 020 7219 3000  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

### MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Christopher Beazley	Andrew Duff
Richard Howitt	Robert Sturdy
Jeffrey Titford	Geoffrey Van Orden
Tom Wise	

## EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

### ALDERTON WARD

Cllr Maureen Boatman Tel: 020 8508 1890  
24 Roding Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3ED

Cllr Terence C Farr 020 8502 5652  
13b The Elms, Lippitts Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4AW

### BROADWAY WARD

Cllr Joan Davis 020 8508 3180  
4 Barrington Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 2AY

Cllr Thomas L Richardson 020 8281 0806  
111 Forest Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1EF

### FAIRMEAD WARD

Cllr Stephen W Barnes 020 8502 1152  
34 Durnell Way, Loughton, Essex IG10 1TG

Cllr Patricia H Richardson 020 8281 0806  
111 Forest Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1EF

### FOREST WARD

Cllr Kenneth N Faulkner 020 8508 1215  
Briar Patch, Park Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4ES

Cllr James M Hart 020 8502 5430  
4 Connaught Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4DU

### RODING WARD

Cllr Kenneth E Angold-Stephens 020 8281 0674  
89 Lower Park Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4NE

Cllr Stephen W Murray 020 8508 7548  
1 Avondale Court, Loughton, Essex IG10 3BT

### ST JOHN'S WARD

Cllr John A Markham 020 8508 1945  
77 Queen's Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1RR

Cllr Caroline P Pond 020 8508 2361  
Forest Villa, 7 Staples Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1HP

### ST MARY'S WARD

Cllr Mitchell M Cohen 020 8502 1533  
16 Ollards Grove, Loughton, Essex IG10 4DW

Cllr Anthony T Lee 020 8508 7649  
33 Priory Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 1AF

# Police target gangs roaming streets at night

**THOUGH local policing predominantly focuses on vehicle crime and burglaries, it is quality of life issues that often concern residents most of all.**

This covers anti-social behaviour, a label which includes a multitude of problems, many of which are very difficult to deal with.

To try and reduce the problem in Loughton, Buckhurst Hill and Chigwell areas, I have been running designated anti-social behaviour patrols every Friday and Saturday night.

These patrols target known problem areas and have initially been taking names of youths who congregate. This is the start of a process in which letters are sent home to parents. If the person continually comes to light, we will have a meeting with the individual and their parents and ask them to sign up to an acceptable behaviour contract.

This cannot be enforced in law but it is a voluntary agreement with the young person to stop congregating in large groups, using threatening and abusive language.

Unfortunately, many parents have been unwilling to sign up to these agreements and have forced us then to implement dispersal orders and anti-social behaviour orders.

We now have two dispersal areas: one each at Loughton and Buckhurst Hill tube stations. These have been implemented in partnership with Epping Forest District council and British Transport Police.

The main elements of a dispersal order are that no one is allowed to congregate and be involved in anti-social behaviour.

If they do, then their names will be taken and they will be asked to leave the area. If they return to the designated area within 24 hours, they can be arrested. If the person is aged under 16, then they can be taken home.

Since the introduction of these two dispersal areas, we have seen a 60 per cent fall in anti-social behaviour. Four people have been arrested in Buckhurst Hill for breaching the order.

We have also taken out six anti-social behaviour orders and have another five behaviour order applications outstanding.

The courts grant these orders with conditions that the person cannot stay in a certain area, become involved in specified activities, or be in a group of more than four people.

There are various conditions which can be included and, if broken, carry the threat of arrest and a term of up to five years in prison.

These orders are an extremely useful tool in combating anti-social behaviour.

However, it is also very difficult to obtain an order, and they can only be used in the most serious of cases.

Loughton Community Policing team is committed to keeping the Loughton area safe and helping people enjoy a better quality of life.

**Piers Quinnell**  
Loughton Community Team  
Inspector

## Bereavement service

**L**OUGHTON Bereavement Service is run by professionally-supervised volunteers.

The volunteers bring comfort, solace and understanding, and help people work through trauma or grief.

All have been trained and many have more than eight years experience. The service is free.

Their clients include the vulnerable and distressed, and the volunteers provide a home visiting and befriending service on a one-to-one basis.

In addition, on the second Sunday in every month at 3pm in the Methodist Church, Loughton High Street, group meetings are held for clients and visitors.

For details, call Kathleen on 020 8508 9408 or write to PO Box 15, Loughton, Essex IG10 2NQ.

## WI on look-out for energetic new members

**L**OUGHTON Women's Institute meets at the Lincoln Hall, in the High Road, at 2.15pm on the first Wednesday of each month.

This is a non-political, non-

religious organisation which is keen to welcome new members. It offers speakers, social activities and outings.

For details, call 020 8508 4514 or 020 8508 1400.

## Welcome Jeff

**J**EFFREY Carratt has joined Loughton Town Council on 29 September as the new Cemetery Attendant/General Assistant.

A keen gardener and DIY enthusiast, Jeff is experienced in dealing with the public having spent 30 years as sales and commercial manager in the brewing industry.

A resident of Waltham Forest, Jeff was born and still lives in neighbouring Chingford and looks forward to the challenge of ensuring the cemetery remains a credit to the town.

## Scooters – the law

**A**RE you considering buying somebody a motorcycle, moped, motorised skateboard or scooter for Christmas?

Or do you, or someone you know, ride a 'Go-Ped'?

If so, you need to be aware of the legal implications.

The owner and rider of any such motorised vehicle is required to have as a minimum, a valid driving licence, third party insurance and a protective helmet, whether or not the vehicle is to be used on or off road, in public places or on private land.

They must not be used on private land or on public open spaces like playing fields or recreation areas without the formal approval of the owner.

For more information contact Epping Forest District Council Environmental Services on 01992 564085.

## Kingsley Hall for hire

**T**HE Town Council has a hall for hire in Austen Close.

It is quite small but can accommodate 36 people seated or 60 standing.

The hall is not available for parties (other than those for small children) but is ideal for small group meetings.

Call Joan Innis on 020 8508 4200 for details.

# Accounts get public airing

**T**HIS is a summary of the council's financial activity during the year 2003/2004.

The pie charts show the amount of income and expenditure received by the council during the year, under the broad headings which relate to the council's committees.

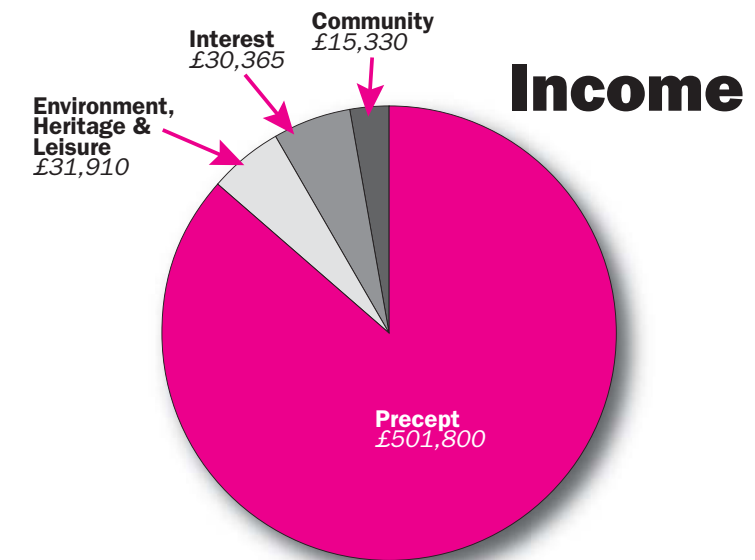
This is a fairly simple way of showing the information, but it gives a good overall view as to where the money comes from and where it goes.

Some of the headings have been used a bit differently compared with last year.

For instance, instead of showing loan repayments and interest separately, they have been incorporated in the committee which controls the activity for which the loan was taken out.

This means the breakdown of figures will not be directly comparable with last year.

At the end of the year, the council held money in general reserves amounting to £616,337, and reserves



earmarked for specific projects of £322,893.

The full version of the council's accounts can be seen by asking at the council offices at Buckingham Court, or looking on the website under 'Strategic Documents'.

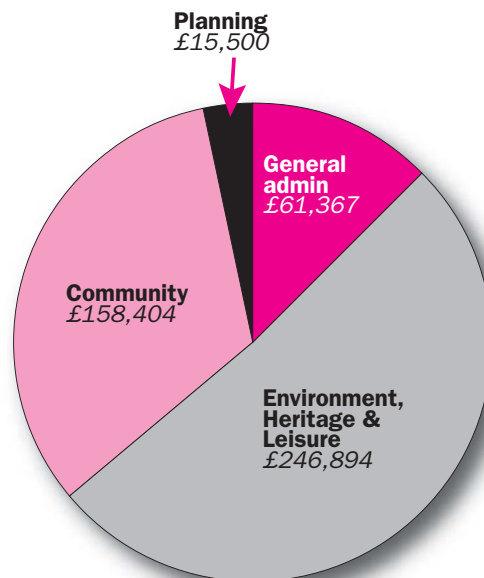
The full version is much more complicated than the summary shown here and is drawn up in line with national requirements, which also apply to larger authorities such as Epping Forest District Council.

The Town Council's auditors are appointed nationally and are not under our control. Despite many reminders, the Town Council is still awaiting audit of both the years 2002/03 and 2003/04.

While the council is satisfied the accounts are correct and there is no cause for concern about their contents, it would still like the audit to be concluded as soon as possible so its view is confirmed by an external body.

The accounts are due for publication at the end of November, whether audited or not, and paper copies may be purchased from the council in line with the Freedom of Information Act.

Both graphs relate to the Town Council accounts for 2003/04.



## Expenditure

**R**ODING Valley  
Meadows Nature  
Reserve is a site of  
special scientific  
interest.

It is the largest surviving area of traditional flood-plain/river valley grassland in Essex.

It comprises flora rich meadows and pastures bounded by numerous hedgerows, with small stands of natural scrub and woodland, as well as areas of broad leaved plantation.

Small ponds, wet ditches and side streams provide additional habitat diversity.

Essex Wildlife Trust has managed this 158 acre important site, which is approximately one mile long, since it was established in 1986.

It stretches from Chigwell Lane in the north to Roding Lane in the south, running alongside the M11.

The reserve is so big, it sits in the three parishes of Buckhurst Hill, Chigwell and Loughton. The old parish boundaries of the Enclosures Acts of the mid 18th century are still clearly visible.

The river Roding forms an important feature which shapes the reserve.

The banks burst to life in the spring with otters, water voles and kingfishers, and winter rain brings great flooding and rich silty water covers the meadows.

In the summer months, a crop of organic hay is taken from the fields to sell to local stables in the district.

During the winter aftermath, the UK's oldest breed of cattle, the English Longhorns, grazes here.



# A haven for all seasons

Take care when on the reserve as it has uneven ground, muddy slopes and cow pats to navigate around. Also, respect other users by keeping your dogs under control.

Please inform the warden when motorbikes are on the reserve as this is a prosecutable offence. Please also remember that the nature reserve warden does not cover the lake or recreation ground.

With a full-time warden on site, one dedicated voluntary warden and a team of enthusiastic practical conservation volunteers, the site is well maintained as a wildlife sanctuary. It is friendly, welcoming and, most importantly, a safe place to visit if you want to enjoy a peaceful time.

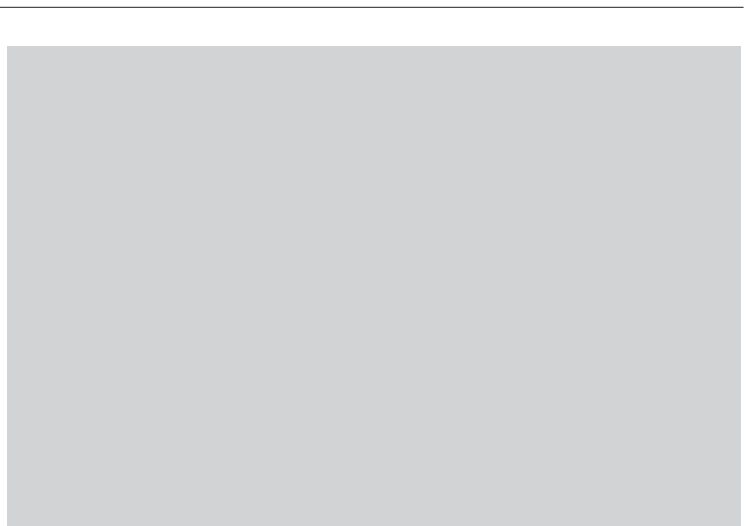
The reserve has an award-winning track for wheelchairs

and has won the Green Flag Award (like the Blue Flag Award for clean beaches) for past three years.

Anyone with any comments about the reserve, please call the warden on 07881 815994 or email [PaulC@essexwt.org.uk](mailto:PaulC@essexwt.org.uk).

Alternatively, write to: 160 Borders Lane, Loughton, Essex IG10 3SB.

**Paul Cook**  
Warden, Essex Wildlife Trust



## Dates for the diary

- **6 Dec, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall. Christmas Creations.
- **8 Dec, 8pm:** The National Trust, Sir James Hawkey Hall, Broomhill Road, Woodford Green: 'The New Great Court of the British Museum,' by Chris Jones. Call: 020 8505 3501.
- **11 Dec, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall. Dine and dance, Wansted Golf Club.
- **20 Dec, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall. Mulled wine – with magic.
- **17 Jan, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall. Special Olympics.
- **20 Jan, 2.30pm:** The National Trust, Sir James Hawkey Hall: 'Barbados – A Trip into our Past,' by Peter Lawrence. Call: 020 8505 3501.
- **5 Feb, 2.30pm + 7pm:** St Clare Hospice – Treasure Island Pantomime, performed by Knutsford Phoenix Theatre Group, Methodist Church Hall, Loughton. Details: 01279 773750.
- **7 Feb, 8pm:** The National Trust, Sir James Hawkey Hall: 'Living with the Ghosts of the Tower,' by Brian D'Arcy. Call: 020 8505 3501.
- **7 Feb, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall. Tutor Fayre at Kentwell.
- **21 Feb, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall. Copped Hall talk.
- **2 Mar, 2.30pm:** The National Trust, Sir James Hawkey Hall: 'A Remarkable Woman – Angela Burdett-Coutts,' by Mrs Pamela Williams. Call: 020 8505 3501.
- **7 Mar, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall. Theatre Trip.
- **17 Mar, 8pm:** The National Trust, Sir James Hawkey Hall: 'The River Stort,' by Richard Thomas. Call: 020 8505 3501.
- **Every Sat, Sun, Wed and Thurs:** Walk with the West Essex Ramblers. New walkers always welcome (sorry no dogs). Call 020 8502 1628.
- **Every Monday, 8-9pm:** Keep Fit/Aerobics – Charis Centre, Buckhurst Hill Baptist Church, Palmerston Road. £3.50. Tel: 020 8508 3346.
- **Every Tues, Thurs + Fri at 10am-11.45am and every Tues at 12.45-2.30pm:** Messy Play Parent & Toddler Group, Debden Park Arts & Community Centre, Willingale Road. £3 per session. Tel: 07931 500802.
- **Every Wed, 8-9pm:** Jumping Jen's "Sit up" and take notice, a new aerobics class for all levels, get fit and toned! Debden Park Community Hall, Willingale Road, £2.50. Details: 07866 127522.
- **First Wed of month, 8pm:** The Royal Naval Association, Branch Business Meeting followed by open evening, Royal British Legion Club, 118 Church Hill, Loughton.
- **First Wed of month, 2.15pm:** Loughton Women's Institute meets at Lincoln Hall (Red Cross Hall), High Road, Loughton. Call 020 8508 4514 or 020 8508 1400.
- **Third Wed of month, 8pm:** The Royal Naval Association social Evening, music, dancing, raffle, buffet, Royal British Legion Club.
- **Every second + fourth Thurs, 8pm:** Debden House Quilters. Call: 020 8508 4873.
- **Alternate Thurs, 7.15-10.15pm:** Friends of Light & Healing meetings, Kingsley Hall, Austen Close. Everybody welcome. Tel: 020 8508 3266.
- **Every Fri 4.30-6pm (term time):** Kidz Club, Epping Forest Community Church. Contact: Phil Joiner, 020 8502 0695.
- **Alternate Fri, 7.45pm:** Loughton & Epping Forest Amateur Radio Society meets at The Old Rectory, All Saints' Church, Chigwell Row. Details: 020 8502 1645.
- **Second Sun of month, 3pm:** Loughton

Bereavement Service group meeting with refreshments, Methodist Church, High Road. Contact Kathleen: 020 8508 9408.

■ **Every Sun, 7.30-10.30pm:** Dance – ballroom, Latin and popular sequence, Victory Hall, Hainault Road, Chigwell. Admission: £3. Details: 020 8508 0313.

■ **Every Sun, 10.30am:** Sunday school & family church service, Epping Forest Community Church, Contact: Phil Joiner, Church Leader, on 020 8502 0695.

■ **First Sun of month at 3.30pm:** Church Service, St Michael's Church, Roding Road, Loughton. Friendly, informal service, welcomes people with learning difficulties and their friends. Lasts about half an hour.

■ **First Sun of month, 9am-2pm:** Farmers' market, Centric Parade, High Road. Details: Suzanne Harper, 020 8508 4770.

■ **Every Mon, 7.15-9.15pm:** Roding Players Orchestra rehearses at Roding Valley High School, Alderton Hill, Loughton. New players welcome. No audition. Call Miles Harwood on 020 8505 4329 for details.

■ **First + third Mon, 8.15pm:** St John's Wives Group, St John's Parish Hall, Church Lane.

■ **Every Mon, 8-10pm:** Epping Phoenix Choir meets at Epping Methodist Church Hall. New members welcome. Details: 020 8508 3539.

■ **Every Mon, 9.30pm:** Loughton Mountaineering Club, Victoria Tavern, Smarts Lane, Loughton. Call Jeff Harris, 020 8508 2888.

■ **First Tues of month, 8pm:** Royal British Legion Branch and Club meetings, 118 Church Hill, Loughton.

■ **Every second Tues, 7.30pm:** Epping Forest and District Stamp Club meets, Wesley Hall, behind Loughton Methodist Church, High Road. Details: 020 8508 1244.

■ **Every Wed (term time), 9.30am-11.15am:** Trinity Toddlers, Mannock Drive. Contact: Isobel Jackson on 020 8508 3317.

■ **Every Wed, 10.30-11.30am:** Over 50s Keep

Fit. Gentle exercise to music. Have fun, stay young. Debden Park Community Hall, Willingale Road. £2.50. Tel: 020 8508 3346.

■ **Every Wed, 9.30-10.30am:** Keep Fit/Aerobics. All abilities welcome. Fun and varied. Debden Park Community Hall, Willingale Road. £3.50. Tel: 020 8508 3346.

■ **Every Thurs, 9.30-10.30am:** Keep Fit/Aerobics (crèche available). Exercise while your children are cared for. All welcome. Buckhurst Hill Baptist Church, Palmerston Road. £3.50. Tel: 020 8508 3346.

■ **Every Thurs, 12.45pm:** Rotary Club of Loughton & Buckhurst Hill, Britannia Sports & Social Club, Bank of England, Langston Road. Call: 020 8500 6910.

■ **Second Thurs of month, 8pm:** Loughton Historical Society, Methodist Church, High Road. Guest visitors welcome (£1.50 entry).

■ **Fourth Thurs, 7.45pm:** Woodlands branch of Essex Handicrafts, Trinity Church, Mannock Drive. Details, Janet Holdaway: 020 8508 7657.

■ **Every Fri, 7.30pm:** Kingsley Spirit-ualist Church, Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Road.

#### MONTHLY COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES:

**First Saturday (Labour):**

■ **10.30am:** The Broadway shopping parade (under the walk-through)

#### Advice surgeries (Independent Socialist)

These are held as regularly as possible outside the Londis Store in Valley Hill on Saturday mornings starting at 9.30am. Please see local press for dates.

#### First Sunday (Loughton Residents' Assoc):

■ **9am-1.30pm:** at the Farmers' Market, Centric Parade, High Road.

#### By appointment (Conservative):

If you have any concerns, call Matt or Lorne Daniel to schedule an appointment.

## First aid

**THE Epping Forest centre of the British Red Cross has had another busy year.**

The centre in Loughton High Road has held a number of public first aid courses as well as carrying out training in schools and various groups.

The members have provided first aid cover at many public events throughout the year.

Also, the medical loan service continues to meet the needs of the community for special equipment to help individuals following injury or illness.

The centre office is now open from 10.30am to 12.30pm each weekday except Tuesday.

The next series of public first aid courses will begin on 10 January with a standard course over 12 Monday evenings.

Shorter evening or one day courses will also be arranged in the new year for people requiring basic skills.

For full details of courses and other services, call 020 8508 2162 during the above office hours.

## Exercise your social skills

**DO you want to get fit and make new friends?**

Would you like to become involved in road or cross-country running, race walking or track and field events?

Loughton Athletic Club is a small, friendly club that welcomes runners of all ages, gender and ability.

Club night is Tuesday at 7pm at The Pavilion by the tennis courts on the Roding Playing fields. Do come along, you will be very welcome!

For details, visit [www.loughtonac.org.uk](http://www.loughtonac.org.uk), or ring John Hart on 020 8508 3661.



PICTURES: LOUGHTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## A taste of Loughton past

**Loughton & District Historical Society promotes an interest in local history, archaeology and genealogy.**

It researches, collects and publishes materials connected with the town's history.

The organisation is holding a season of talks until May at the Methodist Church, High Road, Loughton, on the second

Thursday of each month, starting at 8pm. For further

details, contact Richard Morris on 020 8508 4974.



# Building bridges for the future

**ESSEX-based Christian charity InterAct has successfully helped clients in the West Essex area for almost four years.**

And through Bridges to Work, it provides training for people recovering from mental illness who are looking to return to work via computer training, employment preparation courses, volunteering and much more.

The charity, based in Sun Street, Waltham Abbey, aims to help people to help themselves by building confidence and skills so they can return to the labour market.

Staff provide professional support in a relaxed working environment.

For a leaflet or further information, please contact project manager Dorothy Tatapudi or deputy project manager Pauline Reeves on 01992 716616.

Bridges to Education provides information, guidance and support for those experiencing or recovering from anxiety, depression or other forms of mental distress who are considering a college or leisure course.

Discreet courses and one-day taster courses have proved extremely popular.

These enable those people

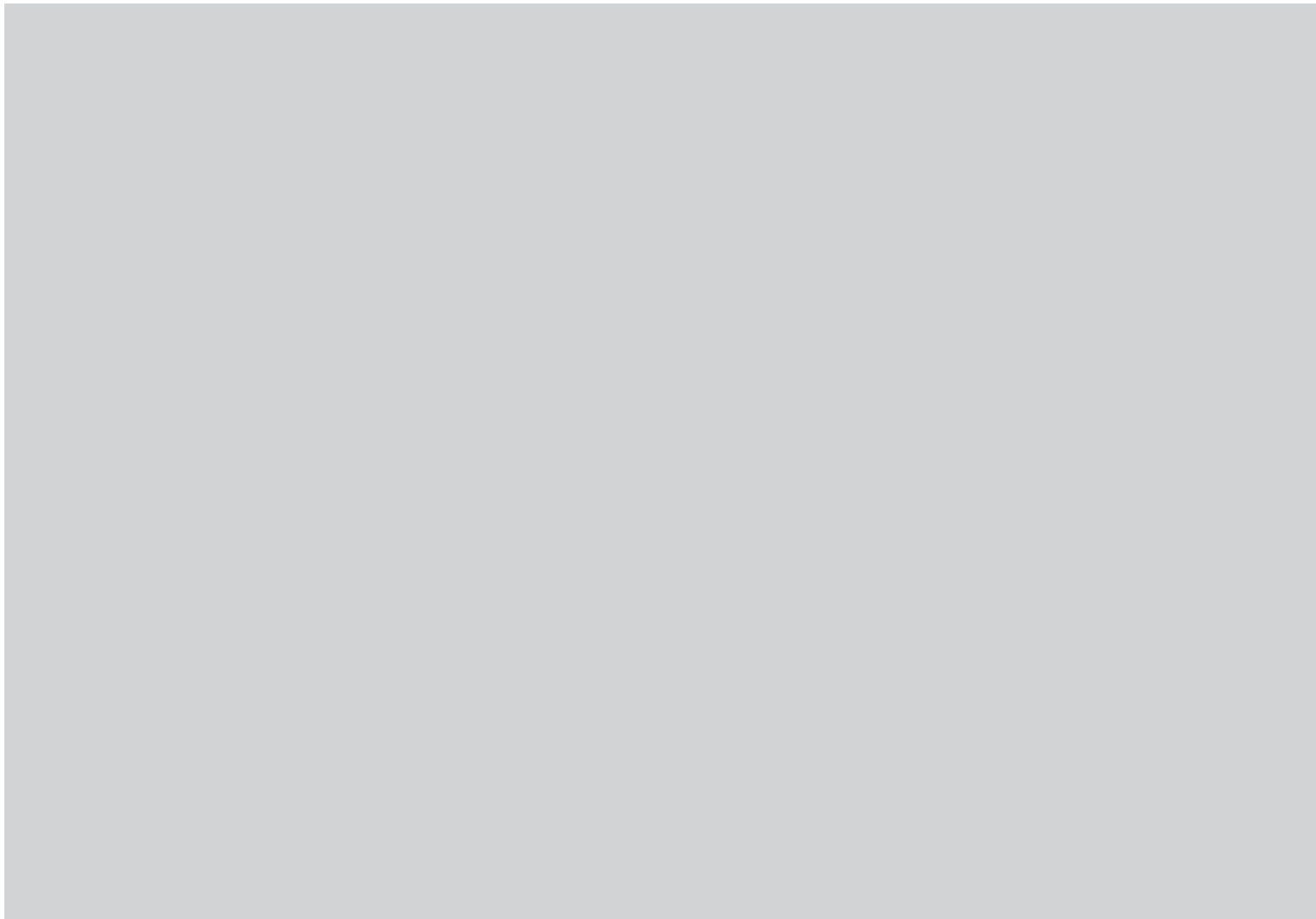
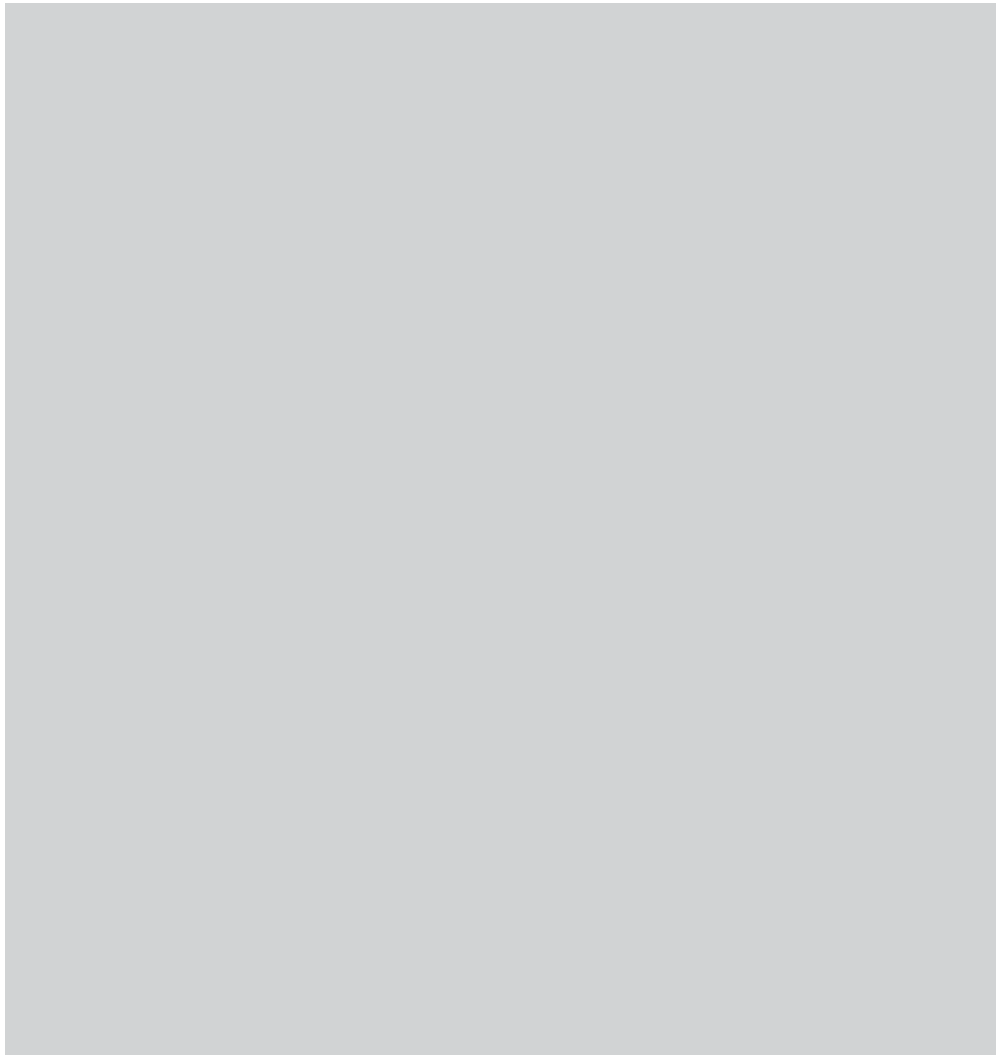
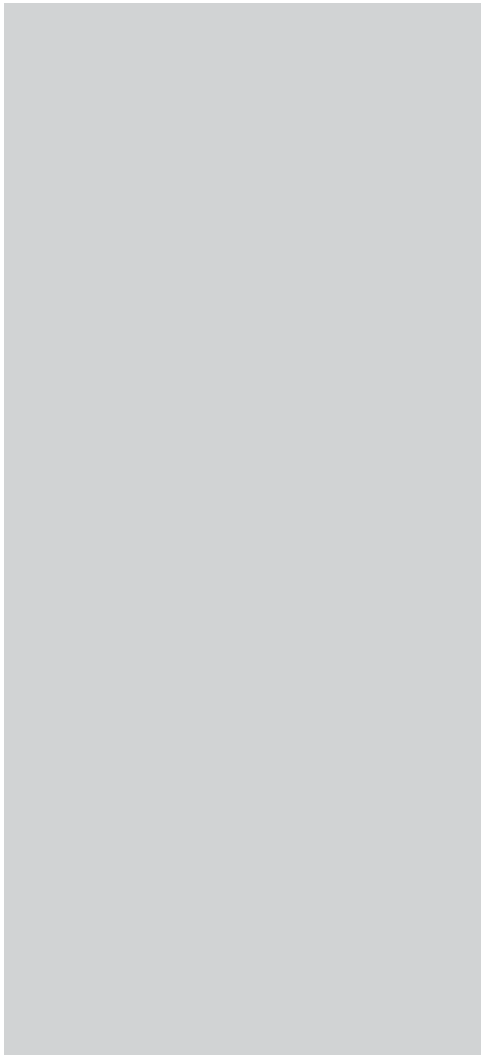
nervous of attending mainstream college to try something new or pick up on a former interest. Outcomes are outstanding.

For more information please call project manager Natalie Watts on 01992 719100.

Anyone who knows of a family member or friend, or if they are suffering from anxiety or depression, why not pick up the phone and find out more?

Both projects rely upon the support of volunteers.

Anyone with good IT skills and who enjoys working within a supportive environment, please get in touch.



**FOSKETT MARR  
GADSBY & HEAD**

# Local groups: apply now for cash support

**T**HE Town Council has a small annual budget to make grants to local organisations.

A wide variety of local groups have received grants this year.

These include:

- Samaritans of Redbridge
- Christian Drama Resource Centre
- Epping Forest Community Church Youth Group
- Winged Fellowship Trust
- Kidz Club
- Loughton Broadway Town Centre Partnership
- Loughton Cricket Club
- Loughton & District Citizens Advice Bureau
- Operation Youth

Town Council decisions on grant applications are made by the Finance & General Policy Committee.

The closing date for applications for the financial year 2004/5 is 31 December 2004.

So, if you would like an application form to apply for a grant contact the Town Council or look on the web site.

Ninety percent of the grants budget will normally be allocated to applications that have been received by this deadline.

The remainder is retained for emergency applications received during the year.

**DIRECT TRADE  
WINDOWS & DOORS**



## Plaque for master of silver screen

**L**OUGHTON Town Council has recently erected a blue heritage plaque on the outside of Staples Road Junior School in honour of George Pearson.

George Pearson was the headmaster of what was then Staples Road Boys' School from 1908 to 1913.

He was educated at Oxford and was perhaps the most successful film producer

before World War II. He went into film-making for educational purposes in 1912, and made popular feature films returning to documentaries in World War II (GPO film unit).

He was arguably the foremost British film-maker of the inter-war years.

His autobiography *Flashback, the Autobiography of a British film-maker* was published in 1957.

## Bell Badge Appeal

**D**URING December each year St Clare Hospice holds the Bell Badge Appeal.

The bell badges are small brooches with a festive design, not necessarily just bells.

They are glittery and come in many different colours which the children love!

Badges are bought for a suggested donation of £1.

The money donated will go to the Hospice and over 80p of

every pound donated is spent on patient care.

The costs to run the Hospice exceed £1.3m each year.

Bell badge collections will be held outside Sainsbury's, Torrington Drive, Loughton on Friday 17 and Saturday 18 December.

We need volunteers to help us with the seasonal bell badge collections. If you are interested, please call 01279 773750.

## No post-Navy blues

THE Royal Naval Association's Loughton branch is part of the worldwide Royal Naval Association.

Membership is open to all former Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Women's Royal Naval Service and Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service staff.

It aims to further comradeship of former naval servicemen and women, and offer help.

The association organises occasional coach outings and

new members are always welcome.

Meetings are held each month at the Loughton Royal British Legion Club, 118 Church Hill, at 8pm as follows:

- First Wednesday – branch business meeting, followed by open evening.
- Third Wednesday – social evening, music, dancing, raffles, buffet, etc.

For details, call Mike Rockett on 020 8281 0085.

## Choral relief

MEMBERS of the Loughton Ladies Choir sing at afternoon clubs in and around the town, including in neighbouring Buckhurst Hill and Woodford Green.

They sing music from shows, also folk songs.

The choir meets on Thursday afternoons at 2-3.30pm at the Lincoln Hall, Loughton, from September through to May.

Anyone requiring further information, please call 020 8508 9984.

## Contacting us

WE welcome contributions to *Think Loughton*, but do not guarantee their inclusion and reserve the right to edit them.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of Loughton Town Council.

## Loughton & District CAB

### THE CAB OPERATES AT:

■ St Mary's Parish Centre, Loughton High Road: Mondays to Fridays.

■ Buckhurst Hill Information Centre: Tuesday mornings.

■ Chigwell Health Care Clinic, Limes Avenue: Monday and Friday mornings.

Advice and further details of opening hours are available on 020 8502 0031.

## Viewpoint

# CAB argues case for pensioners

**THE Government should be doing more to help people who face difficulties as a result of changes being made to the way state pensions are paid, Loughton Citizens Advice Bureau said.**

The Government is nearing the end of a massive three-year project to phase out pension books and giro payments completely, transferring the 14 million to the new system of direct payment into bank or post office card accounts. By April next year, pension books will no longer be available.

But the CAB is worried that not enough has been done to provide a workable alternative for people who will have problems using any of the direct payment options being offered.

It is also concerned that people are not being told about the option of getting their pension through the post weekly by cheque.

Cheques can be cashed by anyone at any bank or post office, provided the payee has signed the back.

There will be no formal application process for cheque payment.

Anyone who has not provided

account details by April 2005 will be automatically transferred to the cheque payment scheme.

But the government is keen to restrict access to those who genuinely need it, so pensioners who have not already done so may find themselves being put under some pressure to provide account details for direct payment over the next few months.

The CAB is urging anyone who wants to find out more about alternative payment methods, or who is experiencing problems, to contact manager Sue Britton on 020 8502 0031.

